

CIA 1.04 Marchetti,  
Director  
CIA 1.01 Helms, Richard

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## 'Rope Dancer' Author Raps 'Cold-War' Mentality

# CIA Needs Modernizing, Ex-Official

A former agent who walked out of an executive position with the Central Intelligence Agency sees the need for vast revisions in the U.S. intelligence system.

Victor Marchetti, after 14 years with the CIA, said his attitude began to change when he was special assistant to the deputy director.

"I saw a country and a world that was changing," he said, "but the agency was not. Since the end of World War II they have been clinging to a cold-war mentality, an Us against Them attitude... the belief that we should be in every rinkydink country to protect them against communism."

HE TOLD HIS bosses how he felt, quit his job, and, to pass along his views to the public, wrote a book.

"The Rope Dancer", published Sept. 9 by Grosset & Dunlap, is a spy novel. But Marchetti's fictional characters say everything he would say himself. The message was incisive enough, according to Marchetti, to evoke a series of phone calls that carried "thinly veiled warnings" from CIA brass.

The book caused little stir, he said, until newspaper and magazine reporters discovered it. It received national attention when U. S. News and World Report devoted a cover story to espionage last month. Since then, many newspapers have discussed the subject.

"I tried to get the message across with a nonfiction book," he said, "but I

gave it up. I said it all in the novel and it turned out to be a better idea."

THE RECENT NEWS that Richard Helms, CIA director, would be given expanded responsibility, pleases Marchetti.

"The consolidation of intelligence agencies will be a money saver," he said, "and military influence should be lessened."

The presidential reorganization plan is aimed in the right direction, but he believes Congress should have more representation.

Marchetti feels the Nixon administration was embarrassed by military counter-intelligence failures—specifically the erroneous information on which it tried a dramatic helicopter rescue of U.S. prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

"The system is too big, unwieldy and poorly organized," he said. "It must be constantly reviewed and controlled."

TOTAL FREEDOM of decision, Marchetti believes, might lead to covert CIA involvement with dissident groups in the United States. He said he has heard discussions in CIA halls on proposals to infiltrate various "fringe" organizations.

The ideal arrangement, he said, would be for the CIA to handle foreign espionage, for the military to handle military problems only, and for domestic problems to be left to the FBI.

The agency has no need for such extreme secrecy, he says, and no reason to refuse examination of its \$6-billion budget.

Marchetti's spy thriller is scheduled for movie production. The author was in Cleveland on the final leg of a 16-day book promotional tour.

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